

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 1095-1068.1

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Robert V. Norby and René Hunziker

) Group Art Unit: 1725

Serial No.: 09/933,527

Filed: August 20, 2001

Patent: Rail Welderhead Shear Apparatus

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-9998

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTIN THE SPECIFICATION

The Applicants respectfully submit the following Preliminary Amendment and request examination.

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

(1) Amend the paragraph at page 2, line 21, to page 3, line 1 to read:

A, In the prior art flash butt welderheads clamp rails to provide electrical contact, heating cycle movement and forging force using quadrants. Rail stretching generally requires a separate mechanism with a frame, and clamps to apply a stretching force. The stretching